Unemployed in Tamil Nadu

1345. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state the number of unemployed youths in urban areas of Tamil Nadu and the steps taken to provide employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): As reported by the Directorate General of Employment & Training; the number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the Employment Exchanges in Tamil Nadu, as on December, 2004, was 45.1 lakh. Around 49% of the job-seekers are from urban areas.

In so far as Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is concerned, it is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis including Tamil Nadu to provide the employment opportunities to the urban poor living below the poverty line. The scheme of SJSRY strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets.

Since the inception of the scheme on 1.12.1997, cumulatively, as on 30.9.2005, number of beneficiaries assisted to set up micro enterprises is 33,735 in the State of Tamil Nadu and 18, 274 urban poor have been provided skill training under SJSRY.

Funds for SJSRY

1346. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

whether despite growing urban employment and poverty Rs. 300.53 crores meant for Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was lying unspent with States and UTs upto March 21,2005;

if so, whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development has also examined this issue and has called for in depth study to find out reasons for non-utilisation of funds within time limit;

if so, whether non-utilisation of funds indicates that actual benefits do not reach poor; and

if so, the States which have been given low priority in the schemes and the steps Government propose to take in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) As reported by the States/U.Ts. through Quarterly Progress Reports received upto 30.11.2005, an amount of Rs. 306.64 crore (including both Central and State share) is lying unspent with the States/U.T. Governments under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This amount also includes the funds released during current year 2005-06 (Rs. 84.52 crore). This unspent balance is due to huge amount of funds transferred from the old UPA Schemes as opening balance for SJSRY, non-utilization of funds due to lack of flexibility in the scheme guidelines, component wise release/ monitoring of funds, non-cooperation of banks under self-employment component etc. While examining the subject of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development has also considered this issue of non-utilization of funds by the States/U.Ts. within time limit.

The States/Union Territory Governments are instructed from time to time to make vigorous efforts to maximize the achievements with reference to the utilization of the available funds, to contribute and utilize the matching State share and to timely furnish the requisite utilization certificates and Quarterly Progress Reports so that allocated funds are fully released/ utilized. The State/Union Territory Governments are persuaded from time to time for effective implementation of the scheme and close monitoring is done at the Central level through periodical review meetings/field visits and Quarterly Progress Reports.

Housing problem in urban areas

†1347. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

whether Government are in the process of introducing any new scheme for solving housing problem in urban areas;

if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.